



Illustration by John H. Rumely,  
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## ***TARAXACUM ERIOPHORUM*** **ROCKY MOUNTAIN DANDELION**

Rocky Mountain Dandelion is a perennial with erect to ascending, glabrous or sparsely hairy flower stalks that are up to 30 cm tall when mature and arise from a taproot. The basal, tongue-shaped leaves are glabrous, with wavy margins and broadly winged petioles, and are 6-20 cm long. The sap is milky. Solitary, terminal flower heads are borne on 1- few leafless stalks. Each head has 2 series of erect, lance-shaped involucral bracts. The inner bracts are 15-25 mm high much longer than the outer bracts. The ray flowers are yellow, and disk flowers are absent. The reddish, 4-angled, narrowly elliptic achenes are 3-4 mm long and surmounted by a beak that is 2-4 times as long as the achene itself, and a bristly pappus. Flowering from May-early August.

*TARAXACUM ERIOPHORUM* can be distinguished from the two exotic species by its erect, rather than reflexed, outer involucral bracts. It is distinguished from other native species by its reddish, distinctly 4-angled achenes. A hand lens may be needed for positive identification.